

Case 2553

***Musca marginalis* Wiedemann, 1830 (currently *Chrysomya marginalis*; Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the specific name *marginalis* Wiedemann, 1830 by the suppression of the disused senior primary homonyms *marginalis* Fourcroy, 1758 and *marginalis* Fallén, 1824. *Chrysomya marginalis* is the established name of a well-known and common calliphorid blow-fly of considerable veterinary importance.

1. A metallic blue, carrion-frequenting blow-fly was first described by Wiedemann (1830, p. 395) and named *Musca marginalis*. Later in the same year Robineau-Desvoidy (p. 395) also described the same species under the name *Chrysomya regalis*. Wiedemann is considered to have published before Robineau-Desvoidy (Aubertin, 1933).

2. Fourcroy in 1785 (p. 497) had, however, already described an unrelated fly as *Musca marginalis* (a name subsequently never used) and Fallén in 1824 named yet another unrelated fly as *M. marginalis* (now known as *Spilogona marginifera* Hennig, 1959). Under Art. 52b & 53c of the Code *Musca marginalis* Fallén, 1824 and *M. marginalis* Wiedemann, 1830 are junior primary homonyms and permanently invalid. Therefore, the valid name of the latter is *Chrysomya regalis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830.

3. Since publication of the name and description by Wiedemann in 1830 the fly has become widely known as *Chrysomya marginalis* (Wiedemann, 1830) and the technical incorrectness of this name consistently overlooked. The name has appeared in numerous primary zoological publications; a list of 13 representative works is held in the office of the Secretariat, and its use is especially entrenched in the veterinary profession.

4. To my knowledge the species had not been referred to by any other name until the 1980 publication of the *Catalogue of the Diptera of the Afro-tropical Region* by Crosskey, in which the true status of the name was revealed by Pont (p. 789). Subsequent to that publication only two works have appeared (Prins, 1980 and 1982) referring to the species as *Chrysomya regalis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, whereas numerous other authors have persisted in using *C. marginalis* (Wiedemann).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *marginalis* Fourcroy, 1785, as published in the binomen *Musca marginalis*;
 - (b) *marginalis* Fallén, 1824, as published in the binomen *Musca marginalis*;

- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *marginalis* Wiedemann, 1830, as published in the binomen *Musca marginalis*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *marginalis* Fourcroy, 1785, as published in the binomen *Musca marginalis* and as suppressed in (1a) above;
 - (b) *marginalis* Fallén, 1824, as published in the binomen *Musca marginalis* and as suppressed in (1b) above;
 - (c) *regalis* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, as published in the binomen *Chrysomya regalis*.

Acknowledgement

I am greatly indebted to Mr A. C. Pont of the British Museum (Natural History), London, for his guidance and aid during the compilation of this application.

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